

I claim:

1. An endocervical curettings receiver comprising:
  - an elongate handle having a longitudinal axis;
  - collection means for collecting and retaining endocervical curettings, attached to said handle, at a proximate end of said collection means; and
  - wherein said collection means has a circumferential edge which is smooth to avoid cutting or scrapping of the cervical area.
2. An endocervical curettings receiver as claimed in Claim 1 wherein said collection means has a concave, spoon shape.
- 10 3. An endocervical curettings receiver as claimed in Claim 2 wherein said collection means has a truncated end at a distal end of said collection means.
4. An endocervical curettings receiver as claimed in Claim 1 wherein said receiver is fabricated from stainless steel.
- 15 5. An endocervical curettings receiver as claimed in Claim 1 wherein at least part of said receiver is fabricated from a plastic material that can be discarded after use.
6. A method for obtaining tissue from inside a living body, the method comprising the steps of:
  - inserting a curette having sharp cutting edges inside a body,
  - inserting the collection means of an endocervical curettings receiver inside the body,
- 20 and positioning said receiver adjacent to said curette, wherein said receiver comprises an elongate handle having a longitudinal axis; collection means for retaining said endocervical curettings, attached to said handle, at a proximate end of said collection means, wherein said collection means preferably has a concave, spoon shape, and has a truncated end at a distal end

of said collection means; and said collection means has a circumferential edge which is smooth to avoid cutting or scrapping of the cervical area;

moving said inserted curette to cause one or more cutting edges on said curette to cut tissue from the body;

- 5 placing or collecting said cut tissue within the collection means; and  
withdrawing said curette and said collection means from the body.

7. A method as claimed in Claim 6 wherein said collector of said endocervical curettings receiver is at least twice the size (in volume), of a collector section formed as part of the curette.

- 10 8. A method as claimed in Claim 7 wherein said collector is between 5 and 20 times the size (in volume), of a collector section formed as part of the curette.